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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 2015 4:30 PM
COUNTRY INN AND SUITES**

DRAFT MINUTES

- I. ROLL CALL -
Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Dotty LaJoye, Marquette County
Absent: Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming
Guests: Ron Yesney, DNR; Mike Lempinen; Kathy Peters, Marquette Township Alternate Staff; Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No public comments
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Pickens motioned to approve consent agenda; Britton seconded motion.** Consent agenda includes July meeting minutes; July balance sheet showing total assets and liability/equity of \$521,019; profit and loss sheet showing July profit of (199,769) and July profit to-date of \$16,39; and budget v actual. August bills to be paid totaling \$14,690.
Vote and motion carries unanimously.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve agenda as presented. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Phase IV –
 1. Republic project update – Aggregate is laid down, plates are going in at all crossings. Waiting on the poly pavement application and gates. Construction project should be finalized the week of Labor Day. We will try and schedule a site visit that week to look at areas of concern.
 2. Tilden Construction Plans and Bids - Associated Contractors has begun the project. Their end date is projected to be mid-October. Plans call for 10' of aggregate to be laid down plus an overlook built at the first bridge crossing.
 3. LS&I grade washout – Humboldt . We are working with DNR to get engineering plans for a bridge and clean up. Yesney has worked with us to get an RTP (Recreational Trails program) grant for engineering. We have a pre-bid site tour scheduled for September 1 and bids are due on September 10. Engineering plans will provide the blue print for construction of bridge and clean up of area per DEQ. Best scenario would to get this going prior to snowmobile season, however, we do have approval to use County Roads as detour if project doesn't get done this year.
 - B. ORV Route through Ishpeming – Reynolds, Thomas, and Fulsher attended a City of Ishpeming Planning Commission meeting to discuss establishing a road ORV route through Ishpeming while we work out the Cliffs property route. Ishpeming already has an open streets ATV ordinance. However, ORV is more inclusive and we are asking that they provide that ordinance to direct ORV's through Ishpeming. We would then sign the designated route. The Planning Commission felt the Washington street route to Trail 8 by UPPCO building is best route . Process needs to play out through City of Ishpeming before we can begin signing.
 - D. Grant Updates
 1. ArtPlace America Feedback – Fulsher went over the comments she received during phone call with ArtPlace. We had praise for our millage, our project overall. Felt we looked at Art as an

adjective rather than an adverb. Funding will be lower next year, competition greater and they will be targeting public safety and health and human services. Pickens noted that he talked to an 80 year from Japan who felt safe and secure on the trail. A good testament to include. Didn't have to worry about traffic. Signage and wayfinding was sufficient. No firearms on the trail and alternative ORV routes to lessen potential conflict. Directional signage to enforce the feeling of safety. Perhaps get Sedlacek involved to concentrate on health more. LaJoye taking a place making class at NMU and can help with next submittal.

2. 2015 Recreation Passport - Fulsher noted this grant is in review process.. Will hear in November if we are successful. Grant will provide bike racks, benches and bike fixing stations at 4 trailheads.

3. MCACA Pellet Pavilion Art Project – The Steel install will take place on Thursday. Signs Now will apply to substrate tomorrow. Painted on canvas, professionally photographed and then put on decal. Decal on substrate and bolted to steel sheeting. Steel is 5' high and 20' long. Sides are 5' high and 8' long at 30 degrees. Image is 3' high and 1' off the ground. Discussed whether will be affected by snowmobiles. Reflective tape already warning of structure.

4. Coastal Management Waterways Trail Towns – Fulsher noted that a group is meeting to discuss an application early in 2016. Could help with the Marquette Commons to lakeshore area of trail and how to incorporate city's master plan of making Commons an urban trailhead and bring many trail users together to sign the entrance into Marquette.

5. National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant - Fulsher noted that the City of Marquette approached her about this grant opportunity. After discussion with City staff, we felt we could use this grant to leverage the dollars that Veridea's Liberty Way Project and new Duke Lifepoint hospital are spending on connecting to the Trail. We could provide a showcase respite plaza along the trail. Although the IOHRA can not be the grant recipient, we will be a partner. Timeline is submitted grant first week of October. The grant period is August 2016 through July 2018. Fulsher will be presenting to Commission at September 14 meeting. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve IOHRA as partner in grant. Johnson (Glenn) seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously**

E. Maintenance Schedule

1 Mowing/Weed Control – Contractor has finished the mowing in Chocolay and Pellet Pavilion to Healey Street in Negaunee.

2. Rotary Club of Marquette – Rotary Club of Marquette took care of trail between Holiday Inn and Pellet Pavilion

3. Other Maintenance Needs/Costs – Fulsher noted that the hilly areas with crushed aggregate between Negaunee and Marquette are washing out. Thomas, Fulsher and Britton have reviewed sections and measured distances. Fulsher has been trying to get quotes for paving the section from flat lands to just east of railroad crossing in Negaunee, approximately one miles. Would not have to use the snowmobile asphalt in that section. She has reviewed east Negaunee area with Payne and Dolan. She is trying to get other bidders as well to see how much we could budget for 2016 to fix this year.

Also discussed the fenced area in Negaunee Township near ledgeway. Discussion on how to fix the washouts in that area as well. Britton suggested we slope the trail to the south side so water doesn't go into the rip rap and wash it out. We will need to add the crushed aggregate and then roll. Johnson (Gary) noted that they fixed the sides of roads in Republic with tilling in regular concrete. Discussion also on the poly pavement procedure that will be used on Republic portion of trail. We also need about two yards of concrete to fix some of the holes in the rap rip. These are the biggest areas of concern right now.

F. Events

1. Marquette Marathon, September 5 –Discussed railroad crossing and how difficult it is to work with railroad. Marathon will post someone at the train crossing. Should we start to think about the tunnel underneath again.

Draw it out to see if we can get r/r and DNR to help us. Contact Kauppila.

2. Republic Ribbon Cutting, September 26 – Planning commission members in Republic want to organize a run/walk to open the trail. We'll have panels up and cut a ribbon. More information to come.

3. Walk for Poor St Vincent October 10 – This walk is taking place on trail between Ishpeming and Negaunee so they will need to work with cities for insurance needs and coordination.

G. Signage

1. Highway Signage – Fulsher noted that she has been working with MDOT on highway signage to trailheads. We were given a price on adding icons (walker, biker) on signs that already exist. The areas that were approved this year are Welcome Center, Michigan Iron Industry and Republic. The icons (totaling 12 in all) would cost \$1872 to install. However, Fulsher noted that when traveling downstate there were signs on the freeway that named the trail and she thinks that would give us more exposure. That would entail an 84” x 30” new sign installed and would cost \$6000. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to go with the bigger signs with our name on it and budget for 2016. LaJoye seconded the motion. Vote and motion carries.**

2. Interpretive Signage – Five panels were delivered this week: four for Republic kiosk and one for Marquette Township.

H. Budget v Actual for 2015 – Fulsher noted some changes in our budget; our Tilden project coming in under budget. She wants to move some of that money into maintenance. She will offer an amended budget for September.

I. Dark Store/Tax Tribunal – Greg Seppanen is pulling all those that have been affected by the dark store decision to a public hearing in November. Fulsher to meet with group tonight after this meeting. We are being asked to discuss how the dark store refunds have affected us. Fulsher suggested we not go to the stores at this time to ask for funding but work with the rest of those municipals who have been affected.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2016 Draft Budget/Plans – Fulsher is starting the budgeting process for 2016 with the knowns. She hopes to have a first draft in September for discussion.

B. Endowment Funds - Fulsher contacted the Community Foundation to ask how endowments work and how much money we would need to put aside to make sure we can continue maintenance on the trail. The rule of thumb is an endowment of \$10,000 yields \$500 annually.

VII. BOARD COMMENT – Johnson (Gary) inquired if the \$25K is still available for the Republic Trailhead to continue with the upgrades. Republic is working on a welcome sign on the back of the Old Bank Building which services as trail head. Their artist went out of business and they need someone to continue.

Johnson thanked Thomas for ORV trail into Republic.

Thomas noted that he and Britton will be doing some maintenance prior to the marathon.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – Yesney noted that he has a new job within the DNR. He is the new trail coordinator for the entire Upper Peninsula. He will be working on State wide issues, but right now he's doing both his new job and his previous one until they fill his previous position.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:08 pm. Pickens seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.

X.

NEXT MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES